

JAN 20 1906

Olive-Tree

I WILL
BE WISE TWO
TOGETHERS ETC
GEN 4:1-12

I WILL
GIVE POWER UNTO MY
TWO WITNESSES ---
THESE ARE THE TWO
OLIVE TREES ETC
REV. 11:3, 4.

R.M. SOMMERVILLE
EDITOR & PROPRIETOR
NEW YORK

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No. June, 1906. 6

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OLIVE TREES

A Monthly Journal devoted to Missionary Work in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

No.

JUNE, 1906.

6.

QUESTIONS OF THE HOUR.

GREAT SUCCESS IN SEEMING FAILURE.*

REV. W. J. COLEMAN, D.D., ALLEGHENY, PA.

Isa. 53, 1; John 12, 38; Rom. 10, 16.

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

These words, written by Isaiah, are quoted by John and Paul, and therefore have no small place and importance in the Scriptures. They have their first application to Isaiah and his brother prophets, for he says, "Who hath believed our report?" Isaiah had brought to his people the wonderful report of a Redeemer who was to be laden with their iniquities, who would bear their griefs and save them through suffering. Having himself a clear vision of this coming Saviour, he hoped that the people would believe his message, and that the arm of the Lord would be revealed in their conversion and holy living. In this hope he was grievously disappointed. Though he lived long and was near God in his life, though inspired in his utterance and most eloquent in his pleading, though the friend of those in high place and with but a small kingdom to move, though eager for results and blessed for a time with apparent success,

yet he failed to persuade Jerusalem and Judah to believe in the Man of Sorrows. While a remnant believed and were faithful, he saw the great body of his people ripening for the judgments of God, for the famine, the sword and the captivity, and died in the midst of the idolatries of Manasseh.

Yet, as we look back upon it, how great was the success of his life! Next to the Psalms, his book is the nearest the gospel of any in the Old Testament. He has given us the poetry of truth, the music of revelation. He prepared the way for the King in His beauty, and laid the foundations of the Church in her glory. He achieved a wonderful success in seeming failure.

The Apostle John quotes this text at the close of his record of the public ministry of our Lord, using it to prove that the rejection of the Saviour by the Jews had been foretold and was therefore to be expected. What an appeal of love Jesus had made to them! Words of grace and truth fell from His lips, and no man spake like this man; power and kindness were yoked in His service, and miracles were wrought on every hand; meekness and holiness crowned a life that overflowed with love; yet He was despised and rejected of men; hated, spit upon, and persecuted by His enemies; betrayed, denied and forsaken by His disciples, and at last scourged and crucified as unfit to

*Sermon preached at the opening of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, in Belle Center, O., Wednesday, May 30, 1906.

live. It seemed even to His friends that He had failed, and John could say of His ministry, "Who hath believed our report?" Yet what an infinite success was the life of Jesus! He could say to His Father, "I have glorified Thee on the earth." He could say of His people, "I have not lost one." He could say of all that the Father gave Him to do, "It is finished." All this He did among His own, while they received Him not. It was stupendous success in seeming failure.

Paul quotes the first part of this text to show why he had failed to convert the Jewish people to Christ. It was not that he and others had not tried. Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, not because he was willing to turn away from his kinsmen according to the flesh, but because of the Master's command, and because the Jews would not listen to his pleading. With him it was "the Jews first," though he was driven out of every synagogue. In the object he had most at heart, he was comparatively a failure. He said of his work among them, "Who hath believed our report?"

Yet what a success was the life of Paul! What a glorious record he made and how great was his reward! After the Master he is the model of the Christian ministry.

Isaiah, the Lord Jesus and Paul, these all in their ministry to the Jews, worked and died in the midst of seeming failure, yet were in the end the great ones, the successful ones of the earth.

Taking our text in its connections, we draw from it the theme that in the midst of seeming failure, men may be working out the greatest success.

The theme is a wide one, when we consider its application to Isaiah, Christ Jesus and Paul; but it has many illustrations in the men whom we love to honor. Jeremiah's day was one of clouds, with no bright shining after rain, for his last word

is his lamentations. Nor did Ezekiel, except in visions of a glorious temple in the distant future, find much of comfort in his ministry. John the Baptist died young and in prison because he resisted evil. Stephen was stoned on the threshold of a great life.

If we go back to classic history we find the world's greatest epic poet, old, blind and poor, with the tradition that "Seven cities claimed the birth of Homer dead, through which the living Homer begged



W. J. COLEMAN, D. D.

his bread." The greatest sage of antiquity, he who laid the basis of moral philosophy, was decreed an enemy of the gods, and forced to drink the hemlock. The greatest classic orator contended all his life for his country's freedom, and at last, in utter failure, took his own life. All these seemed to fail, yet their work is at once the despair and the model of all later times.

Nor do we lack illustrations in our own history. The great field preacher, whose

name our fathers bore, and who marked out the line of our testimony until this day, fell in early life on Airmoss, and his head and hands were set up over the gates of Edinboro as those of a traitor. James Renwick, at twenty-six, laid his head on the block when it seemed that there were none left to comfort the Society People in their distress. In recent times we find an example in the most heroic figure of the last century, who engaged in a hopeless enterprise and went to the scaffold because he believed that his death would do more for human freedom than his life, and whose soul went marching on. These all tell of great success in seeming failure.

In the discussion of our theme let us notice that in the midst of seeming failure men may be working out a great success when they are setting up a standard of right living which the world is not willing to accept. Isaiah was a great preacher of righteousness. He taught gratitude and obedience toward God, simplicity and temperance in every-day life, courage and patience in time of trouble, justice and charity toward all men, a supreme faith and a glorious hope. He would have men believe and trust in a Messiah suffering for their sins, and mighty to save. He would seek no help from Egypt, nor surrender to Assyria. He would show no treasures to Babylonians, nor follow the fashions of Tyre. And the high standard he set up was the cause of his failure. He asked so much of faith and love that the people refused his message, and went on in the downward path of self-indulgence.

The Lord Jesus lifted up a perfect standard of life, and His first recorded sermon was a spiritual interpretation of the law. His word was the truth most pure applied to the problems of humanity. This standard He sustained by a life of perfect holiness. He magnified the law by

showing the character it would produce when carried out to perfection. But this law and this life were too much for sinners to accept or even to look upon. They rejected Him because He asked more than human pride or human weakness could give. The few who repented sought forgiveness; the many who refused sent Him to the cross.

Paul followed his Master in the same experience. He would use the law as a schoolmaster, to bring the Jews to Christ, but they would not learn so hard a lesson, and rejected its spiritual teaching. And Paul, with all his devoted, energetic, self-sacrificing life, failed to save his people. The standard was a right one, but too high for them.

This is the lesson of all times. The men who ask the most from their generation are often for the time counted among its failures because they refuse to lower the standard and adopt the compromises with evil which insure what the world calls success. "Why be so unreasonable, so narrow, so self-righteous?" says the world. "You are unpopular, you will always be small in numbers; you can persuade few but those raised in your home to accept such principles, and not all of them. Such ideas may do for the millenium, but are out of place in this age." Those who urge scriptural doctrine are told that they are narrow and bigoted; those that stand for purity of worship, that they are driving the world from the house of God; those who plead for loyalty to Christ as the King, that they are disloyal to their country. This is the answer of those who reject the message because the standard is too high. Nevertheless, though it meets with seeming failure, it is a great success to have lifted up a lofty and righteous standard. It is a success in God's sight, and He sees things as they are. It is a success to lift up such a stand-

ard, in that it can never be utterly east down, but remains forever. Some may faint and fail, but not all. A remnant shall be left, and the truth once gained shall never be lost.

In the second place, those who seem to fail may work out a great success, in that they give the world its greatest opportunity. Think for a moment of the position that the Jews would have held in the ancient world had they believed in the message of Isaiah. They would have been the blessed people whose God is the Lord. The angel of Jehovah would have fought their battles, and Israel would have been free. Grecian philosophy and Roman law would have learned of the true God, and the expectation of the Messiah, instead of being a dream, would have been the confident hope of all people. Or, think what an opportunity the Jew had in the time of Christ. He might have been a disciple and an apostle of the Lord. A converted nation, devoted to the Lord, would have led to results beyond the flight of imagination. By the grace of God the Jews could have converted the world, and have been held its greatest benefactors. This must have been the dream of Paul for his people, and with some reason, for he himself had been a persecutor and was now an apostle of the faith.

But Israel would not see—God's people would not consider. Their hearts were filled with pride, their eyes were bent on earthly treasures, and they missed the crown. Often the opportunity came, and as often they rejected it. Then those who had pointed out the way for them were disappointed, and their lives went out in seeming failure. Yet, though they had occasion to lament, "Who hath believed our report?" they were not defeated. Some had seen and recognized the glorious opportunity, and they were enough to vindicate the message and prove that he who

had presented it had not been mistaken. The warm sunshine and the cool moisture have not failed because they sometimes fall on a rock and bring no harvest.

The men who by word and life are offering the world its grandest opportunities are those who are achieving the greatest success. The man who preaches and practices an open and kindly life that recognizes the brotherhood of all men is showing to the world the possibility of human happiness, and is a success in solving its social problems. He who holds the door open to the pure and simple worship of God, in which each takes his own part and privilege, and sings to God the praise ordained by the Holy Spirit, is a great success because he offers the highest opportunity to the saints on earth. And what shall we not say of those who seek a nation pledged in its highest law to loyal obedience to the Lord Jesus, King of nations? What an opportunity to hold before the people of this land that it may become Immanuel's land, the first to crown the Mediator with its homage. Yet the grander the opportunity, the fewer, it often seems, there will be to accept it. Such opportunity may be presented in seeming failure, but its end must be and is a real success. None stand higher in the scale of achievement than those who have by word and life pointed the world to its greatest opportunity.

In the third place, those who work in seeming failure may gain great success in the development of a noble character. Isaiah, Jesus and Paul, when they considered their life work among the people whom they desired most to reach, could say, "Who hath believed our report?" But whatever failure there was without, there was none within. We revere Isaiah, we worship and adore Jesus, and we admire Paul. Their trials only increase our love for them and bring them nearer our

hearts. And they grew great, speaking reverentially of our Lord, by the things which they suffered. Every hindrance was made a stepping stone to higher attainments. Every temptation that came to our Lord makes manifest His purity, every assault makes His glory shine out with new radiance. Paul, with a presence called weak and a speech considered contemptible, became the very genius of persuasion because he kept a conscience void of offense, and was filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Each new city was the scene of a new contest, a new failure, and a greater apostle.

It has always been thus. It is not success, but the struggle for it that makes men. If we modify and compromise, if we recede from a more clear and particular testimony to a more general and evasive one, whatever the effect may be upon others, it will be disastrous to ourselves. If we lower the standard of requirement, we may win something of a temporary success and something of the world's applause; but the battle is lost for a great character. It is not what the world thinks of us, but what God thinks of us that counts. Imagine Isaiah lowering the divine requirements: think, if you can, of our Lord leaving out a section of the sermon on the mount; think of Paul compromising because Peter did, and you will change your estimate of his character. In this late age may we do what they would not in an earlier one? If there be opposition to the extent of scorn and contempt, that is only what Isaiah, Jesus and Paul met, and they grew great in meeting it. We have no need to court opposition; we will meet enough if we do our whole duty, even though using the most thoughtful courtesy. It is the long, plated bullet that meets the least resistance and penetrates furthest; but we should not, because we adopt a rifle suited to that bullet, put in

less powder or aim low. It is the disposition and the power to face, and, if possible, overcome opposition to the truth that shows the life that is in us, and even if our report is not believed, we will not fail in developing a great character. This is the heroic element that wins in the heart, however the world's battle may go.

And finally, those who live in seeming defeat may gain great success in preparing the way for future progress. The sower does not have the immediate honor of the reaper, but in the end he is rightly looked upon as the greater benefactor. Isaiah laid a foundation that still sustains the faith of believers. Jesus was Himself the great corner-stone, even when He was being rejected of the builders. His words and life and spirit are the great cause of all the good we see in the world. Paul was a great harvester, but he was greater still as a sower of the seed. The man who strives mightily to teach men unpopular truth and lives it out in his every-day activity, may fail, but he has opened an account that runs on long after he is gone, and in that future he may be accounted a wonderful success.

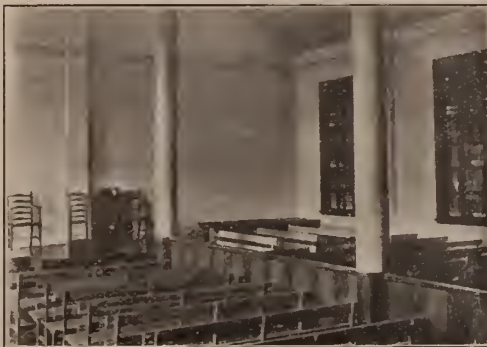
What folly, then, in him to compromise because the majority is against him! Or to believe, after looking at Isaiah, and Jesus and Paul, that those who refuse his message have settled anything! Let us win by all means, if we can, without sacrifice of the truth or of that which guards the truth, but let us not see how near we can go to losing our principles, or how closely we can pare down the requirements of loyalty to our Master. That way lies real failure, and an extinction that will class us with the lost tribes. But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you and things that accompany salvation. The future belongs to those who hold the principles which after times shall reach. What a success to-day is Isaiah! and Paul, who

would not desire his crown? And Jesus, His glory is infinite and eternal like Himself. All these said of the people in their day, "Who hath believed our report?" Yet they were all preparing the way for victory, and in the midst of seeming fail-

ure, they wrought out a wonderful success. The man who brings the true and lofty message, and lives it in an unbelieving world, is building better than he knows, unless he has great faith in the future Kingdom of Christ.



The readers of OLIVE TREES will be glad to have the following pictures of
The Robert McNeill Memorial Chapel
at Tak Bing Chau.



Missionary enthusiasm is not merely faith, confidence in God, confidence in His word; missionary enthusiasm is love for mankind inspired by and touched with a divine fire; and where this power of the Spirit of God is, there that missionary enthusiasm manifests itself in irresistible energy and efficacy.—*Richard S. Storrs.*

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES.

ABROAD.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The committee appointed to consider matters relating to our foreign mission work would respectfully report that three papers have been referred to us, namely, the "Regular Report of the Foreign Mission Board," "A Question Concerning a Proposed Committee of Reference and Arbitration," and "A Proposal that Arrangements be Made to Celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Establishment of Our Foreign Mission Work."

The Board of Foreign Missions has presented to the Synod what is in the main a very encouraging review of our work in the foreign field. The progress made in foreign fields in general shows us the wonderful advance of the Kingdom of Christ among the heathen during the last half century, the time that has elapsed since our own foreign work was started. During this period our own record has been one to stir the heart when we are told how many ministers, physicians, and teachers have left all and gone, under the most trying circumstances, to work among those who are dying through lack of knowledge. Out of this heroic band nine have passed away, among whom is one who addressed us in moving words at the last meeting of Synod.

The work in Syria, Asia Minor and Cyprus is reviewed, statistics given, and a bright prospect for the future set before us. The workers in Syria are sadly in need of reinforcement, as it is impossible to do justice to the field with the present force. The work in China is flourishing, and a very encouraging increase of

membership is reported. The converts are generally helpful in gospel work, and a few natives are being trained to special usefulness. A widening of the work there is expected soon, and the prospect is bright for the future. The little band of workers are bearing up bravely under their bereavements, and God is granting them His blessing.

An increase is reported in the contributions to both the Syrian and Chinese Missions, showing the increasing hold that these Missions have on the heart of the Church, and also an increased realization of the gratitude we owe to God for our salvation. This increased liberality may be traced in part to the increased knowledge of mission work which has been gained by the study of foreign missions.

In reference to the second paper referred to us, which proposes a permanent Committee of Reference and Arbitration, made up of representatives of Protestant Mission Boards in the United States and Canada, to consider questions arising between Missions, suggestions as to new fields, and negotiations with the Government, we report that we have looked into the proposal as carefully as we could, and conclude that such a permanent arrangement is scarcely necessary. Our missionaries have lived on the most peaceful terms with their neighbor missionaries, in relations of mutual helpfulness, and have no disputes to settle. Then there is much new ground to be occupied without crowding any one. When negotiations with our Government are necessary, our Board has co-operated with other Boards, using their united influence to gain the end desired. We think it safer and sufficient to take up

each issue as it arises, according to the conditions which prevail and which indicate the wise course to pursue.

We recommend:

1. That the Synod in 1907 hold a session on Friday evening to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of our Foreign Missions, and that the Foreign Mission Board arrange a programme for the meeting.

2. That the young ministers and the young women of the Church be urged to consider earnestly the need of the field in Syria, and the call for their services.

3. That we approve of the purpose of the Board to secure an increase of at least two ministers and two teachers in the Syrian field; and for such increase in the missionary force in China as the needs and opportunities of that great field require.

4. That the hearty approbation of the Synod be given to every effort to train native workers for active service.

5. That the Church be congratulated on its increased liberality toward the cause of foreign missions, and be encouraged to abound in this grace.

6. That the Missionary and Young People's Societies be urged to take up the study of foreign missions, and that the Foreign Mission Board suggest the best text-books to be used and the best methods of pursuing this study.

7. That we exhort all our members to read carefully the Report of the Board and the letters of missionaries, that they may have a living acquaintance with the workers and with the conditions of the field.

8. That we here record a tribute to the memory and character of Miss Jennie B. Torrence and of Miss Martha Cunningham, who this last year passed from their work to their reward.

9. That the method so successful and satisfactory in the past of co-operating

with other Boards to meet and settle issues as they arise, according to the conditions that obtain in each case, be continued, without entering into any permanent organization for this purpose.

W. J. COLEMAN,

E. A. CROOKS,

G. A. EDGAR,

W. J. MARSHALL,

W. J. ADAMS.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSION BOARD.

Fifty years ago the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church elected and commissioned Revs. R. J. Dodds and Joseph Beattie its representatives to the Foreign Field. The half-century that has passed away since that time has been marked by the most marvelous achievements. No period in the history of the world has been so fruitful in invention and discovery, the result of human research and ingenuity, yet indicating the providence of the Mediator, as He controls the minds of men and directs all their movements, with a view to a worldwide recognition of His sovereignty. He is at the head of the missionary enterprise, and under His leadership many have gone into heathen lands with the gospel, and through its instrumentality, places that, five decades ago, were in gross darkness and full of shadowed homes, are now centers of Christian light and influence. Dismal spiritual swamps have been converted into fruitful gardens of the Lord. Then vast territories were closed to the gospel, but now the whole world, except a few corners, is ready to welcome its messengers, though to the reproach of the professing Church of Jesus Christ, at least two-thirds of an immense estimated population of 1,500,000,000 do not yet know the name of the Redeemer and King.

STATISTICS THEN AND NOW.

In 1856, according to a manual pre-

pared by Dr. John C. Lowrie, Secretary of the Presbyterian Board, in which are included the statistics of all Protestant Missions among the unevangelized nations of that time, there were 1,369 missionaries in eleven fields, the representatives of five denominations and a few independent societies, 180,653 communicants or church members, and 181,792 pupils under religious instruction. In 1906, according to the American Board Almanac, the compiler of which has obtained statistics of the American Societies directly from the Secretaries of the several Boards, while those of the Societies in Britain and Ireland and on the continent of Europe have been furnished by Dr. H. O. Dwight, of the Bureau of Missions—both reliable sources of information—there are, in 20,641 stations and out-stations, 11,157 missionaries, the representatives of 76 Protestant organizations, 1,325,885 communicants, of whom 103,732 were added last year, or more than half as many as the total for 1856, and 901,112 pupils under instruction in Mission schools. These figures, which do not include returns from a few scattered Societies in Asia, Africa, and Australia, and so are “under rather than above” the truth, indicate amazing progress compared with what was undertaken and accomplished during the two preceding centuries or since the founding of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in 1701.

During these fifty years the Reformed Presbyterian Church has sent out 14 ordained ministers, 11 physicians, one of whom was afterward set apart to the ministry of the gospel, and three of them women, and 11 missionary teachers to take charge of the school work—a total of 36 laborers. Of these 9 have passed on to their rest and reward, 10 have resigned, owing to failing health or for other reasons that seemed imperative, and 2 have

become identified by marriage with sister missions in Syria, leaving only 7 ministers, 5 physicians and 3 teachers in harness at the close of the half-century. The pioneer missionaries were unable to find a suitable location till the winter of 1859, when Latakia in northern Syria was chosen as the center of operations, and the first convert was baptized on the first Sabbath of December, 1861. Since that time there have been received into the fellowship of the Church about 550 persons. Deducting deaths, emigrations to America and other countries, transfers to other missions, and defections, there remain in the four fields 401 Church members, 51 added during the year, and showing, after a decrease of 11 is deducted for the usual reasons, a net increase of 40 communicants. These returns will compare favorably with those of any other denomination, and should lead the Covenanters Church to strive after greater things.

THE WORK IN SYRIA.

The Report from the Mission in Syria is full of interesting details in regard to the work. During the year there was an accession of 23 to the membership of a widely scattered congregation that now numbers 260 communicants, a net increase of 19. There was public worship every Sabbath in Latakia, and some of the members who live at Bahamra and the Merj frequently attended the services, though some hours distant. The Lord's Supper was also administered twice in Latakia and Tartoos, and once in Suadia, Gunaimia and Inkzik. Although there is only one licentiate in Syria, Mr. Juraidiny, who is permanently located at Tartoos, where he preaches every Sabbath and conducts a Sabbath school of 95 pupils and takes charge of a school of 100 or 115 pupils during the week, 5 Bible readers, 3 men and 2 women, are employed in making known the Word of Life to many.

Religious instruction, as in former years, is the outstanding feature of all the schools, and in Latakia alone there were at least 350 children and young people under daily Christian teaching, some of the boarding pupils coming from villages where no missionary work can be done. In the medical department, too, the same prominence is given to religious instruction. At the close of his statement Dr. Balph writes: "The work has brought within the influence of the truth a goodly number, who have had their first opportunity of hearing the gospel. Several patients who could read have manifested much interest in the Bible and other religious books, and a number of volumes have been given to those who wished them. The Bible has been introduced into a number of Moslem homes where it was not known before."

The death of Miss Cunningham so soon after the removal of Rev. C. A. Dodds to Mersina in October, 1905, has rendered it necessary to close both boarding schools in Suadia. But the Mission says that "an attempt will be made to keep a school for girls in a private house," while an experienced teacher will have charge of a day school for boys. A man and a woman will also be regularly employed as Bible readers. There should, however, be an ordained minister and a missionary teacher on the ground with as little delay as possible. Less than two months before her death, Miss Cunningham wrote: "The people were never more earnest than now." She also spoke of some who "wished to withdraw from the Greek Church and be organized into a Protestant Society." In a personal letter to a friend, a minister who is well acquainted with that part of the Syrian field, says: "It is a nascent time in Suadia." Speaking of the movement to which Miss Cunningham referred, he expresses the belief that, though "the

movement is not along spiritual, but civil lines," it is really "a revolt against priestcraft," and "the result of our mission work in Syria." And he gives it as his opinion that, under wise guidance, the people "in that whole valley might be so dissected ecclesiastically and civilly from the old corrupt body, that they would develop into an evangelical community."

Every one must feel, at this critical hour in the history of this Mission, the need of a native ministry thoroughly trained for pastoral work in Syria, but this can scarcely be hoped for until the home churches are so fully imbued with the missionary spirit as willingly to consecrate their sons and daughters to foreign service. When, in 1881, Dr. Joseph Beattie opened a Theological Class, from which students were licensed to preach the gospel, there were three other ministers in Syria, and it was easy for him to devote time and energy to the training of young men for that purpose. But it is not easy for Rev. James Stewart, the only ordained minister in that wide field, the pulpit in Latakia claiming his services and the outlying stations demanding his oversight, to add to these labors the duties of a Theological Professor. At least two ministers should be sent to his assistance, if possible, before the end of this year, and then he will be in a position to assume the responsibilities of that office. And two young women should go along with them to strengthen the hands and encourage the hearts of the Misses Wylie and Edgar in their school work.

THE WORK IN ASIA MINOR.

The annual statement from Tarsus Mission reports that the work in Adana "was never more encouraging." The Bible reader is spoken of as "prudent and zealous," - - "always busy and always finding opportunities for aggressive evangelistic work," but the opposition of the priest-

hood has interfered to some extent with his success. In the Auba it has been necessary to suspend operations since the beginning of the year, owing to "the dissimulation of the workers occasioned by fear of the people among whom they reside." In Tarsus there has been, since November, 1905, a school of 47 pupils and 2 teachers, graduates of the boarding schools in Mersina. The "attendance on evangelistic services twice on Sabbath and twice during the week was large," and the outlook is full of promise.

As no statistics from this Mission have reached the Board, it is not possible to say whether there has been any change in the roll of 74 communicants reported twelve months ago, or to give the exact number of native helpers, and of children and young people under Christian instruction, except that, in addition to the 47 pupils in Tarsus, there were in Mersina 100 boys and 93 girls in the day schools, and 44 boys and 34 girls in the boarding schools, under the supervision of Miss Sterrett, which are described as "the nucleus of our work, and the most effective means of securing congregations to whom to preach," while "their benefits are felt throughout our field and doubtless beyond it." At this station there is public worship twice on Sabbath and a prayer meeting in the middle of the week, and preaching in houses whenever an opportunity offers.

Some years ago this Mission bought about two acres of land in Tarsus with money contributed to the late Dr. David Metheny, for the purchase of a house in Adana that was supposed to be on the market at the time. The property is increasing in value and admirably located for our work in that city, and Synod is requested to authorize the soliciting of the necessary funds for the erection of a suitable building on this site, as soon as a permit can be obtained.

THE WORK IN CYPRUS.

The Mission in Cyprus seems to be in a healthy and vigorous condition. The brethren who represent the Church there are obviously alive to their responsibility, and intensely in earnest in seeking to win men away from false religions that cannot help them to that union and communion with the true God, our Saviour, which are essential to their eternal well-being. Dr. Calvin McCarroll, who is stationed in Nicosia, the capital of the island, has held bi-weekly clinics since September, 1905, with an average attendance of 45 patients, and on these occasions, Rev. A. Aegyptiades addresses them on some gospel theme, and talks with them individually while the Doctor is preparing for their treatment. In this way, and through the distribution of tracts to as many as can read, the seed is being sown which, under the quickening influences of the Holy Spirit, must sooner or later bear fruit.

Rev. W. McCarroll is able to speak of the gospel preached every Sabbath in Larnaca and outstations, the Lord's Supper dispensed five times and nine added to the Church, a net increase of 3 members. To one of these converts the Mission is much indebted. A man of social influence and means, Mr. Peponiades, has bequeathed two-thirds of his property to the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Cyprus, and besides, has given a large lot for Mission purposes in a central part of Nicosia, and \$1,000 to erect on that site a chapel that can be used both as a place of worship and as a school house. The \$1,200, so generously donated by Rev. D. J. Shaw for a memorial building, will be expended, with his approval, in providing a home for the resident missionary.

The school in Larnaca is reported "in a more satisfactory condition than formerly, although there is still much to be desired." There were 57 pupils—22 Greeks, 18 Ar-

menians, 14 Turks and 3 Jews. Mr. McCarroll is still of the opinion that a boarding department would greatly enhance the value of the school as an evangelistic agency. In a personal letter to the Secretary, he writes: "The island is beginning to open up. --- Foreign capital is flowing in, colonies of Jews are arriving to settle here, and a period of material prosperity is promised. Our school is growing, and only needs to be placed on a more solid footing in order to grow much more rapidly. I am confident that the boarding department would in a short time be self-sustaining. --- We would reach many Moslems and Jews who otherwise are unapproachable and inaccessible. It is the time of opportunity, and we should strengthen the school work as the important agency under present conditions for reaching the people with the gospel."

An event of more than usual importance was the assault made by a mob of 2,000 Greeks on the native brethren in Famagusta, Feb. 8, 1906, and evidently with the approval of the priesthood. The contents of a room that Mr. Kassilian had fixed up in his house as a place of meeting were completely destroyed, as well as other property in the town, and the converts have been forced to leave their homes and find employment elsewhere. Steps have been taken to bring this "ferocious attack upon a handful of Protestants," as the *Missionary Review of the World* describes it, to the attention of the British Government. The Alliance of Reformed Churches has been requested through its General Secretary, Rev. G. D. Mathews, D.D., and at his suggestion, to lay the whole matter before the Foreign Office in London. It should be stated, however, that recently a settlement has been effected by which the Greeks have agreed to pay \$500 damages, and the ringleaders in the riot are under bonds of \$50 each to keep the

peace. And there now exists a feeling of good will toward the Mission for not sending them to prison, though they are still reluctant to have Mr. Kassilian restored to his former position in Famagusta as District Court Registrar.

A CONFERENCE AT CAIRO.

A notable Conference was held at Cairo, Egypt, in April of this year, to discuss the Moslem problem. Among the delegates present were Revs. James S. Stewart and C. A. Dodds, who attended as representatives of our Levant Missions under instructions from the Board. The proceedings were of special interest to men who are laboring among the Nusairia, henceforth to be counted among and dealt with as Moslems, and should stimulate to more earnest efforts to enlighten and deliver them from their present moral degradation. The papers were filled with information as to what has been already done to reach the millions of Moslems in Turkey, India and many other countries, and with instructions as to the preparation needed for such work. And there was manifest a determination, voiced by such leaders as Zwemer, of Arabia, and Weitbrecht, of India, to press on in this missionary campaign till Islamism shall yield to Christianity. Mr. Stewart says: "I for one have gained knowledge, courage and resolution. --- I would not have missed the inspiration for anything."

The Conference met behind closed doors and nothing that was said or done has been given to the public. But it is intended to publish in two volumes the minutes and papers, with a survey of the field and statistics, for private or confidential use.

THE WORK IN CHINA.

The news from China continues to be of the most cheering character. The Mission at Tak Hing Chau is able to report 18 added to the Church during the year, a net increase of 17, bringing the communi-

cant roll up to 40 members. And the converts are rapidly developing Christian character. The reality of their faith is seen in regular attendance upon public worship, liberality in their offerings, and zeal in seeking the salvation of others. Their contribution of \$30 in gold as a "memorial Thank-offering" has been invested in a city lot, and they will give half of the money needed to erect on it a building suitable for a reading room and a place for preaching. Wherever the book-sellers go they are not only successful in selling books and tracts, but in more than one community have exerted an influence in favor of Christianity. The convert, a teacher, who finished his course Dec. 1, 1905, gave his friends and neighbors a fine illustration of the sustaining power of the Christian religion under very trying circumstances, and even in the article of death.

In addition to preaching, prayer meetings and Sabbath School on the Lord's Day, there is a week day meeting for the instruction of women, and the senior missionary conducts a class every evening for Bible study and worship. He also opened a training school in March at which there are at present four pupils. "My hope," writes Mr. Robb, "is that these men will become useful workers, and that the school will be a blessing to this whole district. None of them have any means of support, and I am following the plan of the Presbyterians and furnishing them with food while in school on the understanding that they will give a year of service at nominal wages for each year they are helped. And they will give a great deal of help during the three years' course. It has been after considerable hesitation and delay that I have entered on this line of work. But I am satisfied it is the needful thing to do now, and if it is blessed of God to the training of a native ministry or efficient

lay workers, it will be in the long run the most effective evangelization." On the death of Miss Torrence, just when arrangements had been completed for the opening of a school, Mrs. Wright took charge, and has successfully carried on the work, refusing any remuneration for her services, and can point to two of the pupils as applicants for baptism. The medical department, too, is bringing many into contact with the truth. The Mission refers to one "especially interesting case" that "resulted not only in restoration of vision to the patient, but in the conversion of his younger brother, who came to wait on him." Thus, in many ways, men are being brought under the power of the gospel and turned unto the Lord.

It is the intention of this Mission to open a new station at To Sin on the West River, about fourteen miles from Tak Hing Chau. Thanks are due to the Head of the Church for putting it into the heart of one of His servants to offer for this purpose \$5,000, which, through the generous gifts of others, soon amounted to \$10,050, and made this extension of the work possible.

A short paragraph from a private letter recently received from Rev. A. I. Robb will show the way in which missionaries look at the present unrest in China: "It would be unwise to say that there are no signs of danger, for there are chronic conditions in every heathen land—why not say in every land—that make trouble possible; but, so far as we can see now, everything is peaceable. There are stupendous changes occurring, but with remarkable quietness. The trouble is that a local disturbance here makes people at home think the whole country is going into anarchy or anti-foreignism. While no one may safely predict the future, some of us are entertaining strong hopes that China will be reconstructed without a sanguinary revo-

lution. And if danger comes, God has just as effective and tender a care for His people as ever, and the promise of His presence holds good to-day."

TWO MISSIONARIES AT REST.

The death of two of our devoted missionaries during the year reminds us once more that the work depends for its results, not on men or women, however eminent for piety and talents, but on the living Lord. Miss Jennie B. Torrence, of China, who passed away Monday, June 26, 1905, had all her plans laid for opening a school for girls at Tak Hing Chau, and was looking forward to a season of successful activity. Miss Martha Cunningham, of Syria, who heard the home-call Friday, March 9, 1906, had recently returned from a brief furlough, and was impressed as never before with the spiritual destitution of Suadia. Well equipped for service, fully surrendered, and passionate in their longing for souls, the removal of these two noble women is full of mystery, and we can only wait for the revealing day, when every dark page of mission history shall be illuminated, and all flesh shall see the glory of the Lord.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Report of Treasurer Miller indicates a forward movement in the contributions of the Church to its Foreign Missions. The receipts for the Mission to China from congregations, Sabbath schools and Missionary Societies were \$4,164.60, an excess over all necessary expenditures of \$2,514.57, which, added to the balance reported a year ago, shows a total credit balance of \$5,804.74. The receipts from the same sources for the Syrian Mission were \$11,003.97, nearly \$1,000 over those of last year, the congregational collections showing an advance of \$1,115.23. And yet the Treasurer has to report a debit balance of \$9,557.00, only \$143 less than twelve months ago.

There are, however, \$15,096.49 in the Temporary Investment Fund, to which this money is due, so that the debt reported from one year to another is only nominal. If Synod will approve the transfer of \$10,000 from this fund to the credit of current account, the Church will enter upon a second half-century in its missionary history with a good balance of \$5,539.49 in its Treasury. The situation will then be clear to the people, many of whom do not see the Minutes of Synod, with their financial statements, and seem to be under an impression that the Syrian Mission is being run on borrowed capital. They will thus be encouraged to give with renewed liberality for the extension of the work, to their own growth in spirituality and in loyalty to the crown of the Redeemer. There will be no limit to the enthusiastic giving of men who realize that the aim of foreign missions is not merely the salvation of individual souls, but the regnancy of Christian principles in society.

Respectfully submitted,

R. M. SOMMERVILLE,
Cor. Sec'y.

FIELD REPORTS.

Syria.—The year now closing has been an ordinary one in regard to the work itself and the local conditions. The most noteworthy things are those which affect the missionary force.

In accordance with the directions of the Board, Rev. C. A. Dodds and family removed from Suadia last October. During the same month those who had been at home on furlough returned to take up their work.

Dr. Balph at once set the machinery of his department in motion, and was soon crowded with work. Miss Edgar returned to her accustomed place at the head of the boys' school.

MISS CUNNINGHAM'S DEATH.

Miss Cunningham was detained in Latakia by poor health until December, but was then able to go on to Suadia, and resume some of her duties, although with diminished vigor. The winter was quite cold and unfavorable for her disease, and it is now evident that she began to decline soon after being left alone in Suadia. She did not inform us of the fact, but kept hoping for a favorable turn, which never came. When Mr. Stewart went to Suadia, Feb. 21, she was already confined to her room. Four days later she took to her bed, and never afterward attempted to sit up. Dr. Balph at first sent some medicines, but nothing availed to check the vomiting and restore her strength. He then went in person and took charge of the case, but no favorable symptoms developed, and it became evident that the end was not far away. Miss Edgar also arrived via Alexandretta and Antioch. Everything possible was done for the patient's comfort, but not being able to retain any nourishment, she rapidly grew weaker, and died on Friday, March 9, a little after noon. The hour of 5 P. M. was set for the funeral service, at which time the chapel was packed with people. The text chosen for the occasion was Rom. 2, 4. "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." In the dusk of evening the remains were laid away in a corner of the Mission garden to wait the resurrection. Miss Cunningham first came to Syria in 1882. She has labored in Suadia since 1889, as physician and superintendent of schools. She was thoroughly devoted to her work, of ready sympathy with the poor and the sick, willing to go wherever she was needed, if at all possible, day or night, rain or sunshine, regardless of her own health and comfort. Her intimate knowledge of the language and customs of the people, and her helpful and

sympathetic spirit made her always an acceptable visitor at their homes. The women of Suadia especially gave expression to their sorrow at the loss of a faithful friend and helper. One of them remarked, "She was wearied with labor for us." A missionary friend writes, "Your Mission has lost a member whose persistence in carrying out her ends was certainly beyond all praise."

EFFECT ON WORK IN SUADIA.

Her decease, following upon the departure of Rev. C. A. Dodds, leaves that station without a resident missionary. Several of the brethren and friends there earnestly besought us not to forget them in their hour of need.

GENERAL REPORT.

The present report will necessarily include the whole Syrian field.

The number of employees at present is one licentiate, 5 Bible readers—males 3, females 2. One of the men is teaching part time in the girls' school. Ten male teachers and 5 female, and 1 pharmacist. There are 98 boarding pupils and 252 day pupils, which give in all our schools an average attendance of 350. The total enrollment is of course much greater. Add to this, 40 for Suadia, and the total is some 400 children under instruction.

LATAKIA.

The number of communicants reported last year for Latakia field was 215. This year shows an increase of 23, and a decrease of 4 (one by death, one by certificate, two by purging the roll), leaving 234. To this add 26 for Suadia, and we have a widely scattered congregation of 260 members.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed May 21 at Tartous to 13 native communicants; June 2, at Latakia, to 70; July 9, at Suadia, to 18; Aug. 13, at Iukzik, to 9; Aug. 27, at Gunaimia, to 65; Tartous, Nov. 26, to 11; Latakia, Jan.

21, to 69. Rev. C. A. Dodds held the communion at Suadia, and assisted once at Latakia and at Gunaimia. Ten children were baptized. Meetings were held during the week of prayer at Latakia and Tartous and were well attended, interesting and profitable.

Early in the year Licentiate Saleh left us to go to America, and has not returned. The Bible reader, Ishak Shema, also left us, to spend his old age in his native city of Hums. The places of both these men are vacant, except that a teacher divides his time between the girls' school and visiting the out-stations. Licentiate Yakob Juraidiny still preaches and teaches at Tartous. His wife is also employed there as a Bible reader.

At Tartous there is a regular Sabbath school, using the international lessons, with an average attendance for the year of 95. The average for the day school is 100. The average February was 115. The school at Melkah was discontinued about Nov. 1, mainly because we needed the teacher at Tartous; but he goes frequently and holds meetings on the Sabbath, and is much encouraged by the interest manifested in hearing the Word of God.

In Bahanra a Bible reader is employed, and there is a small school for boys kept at the Merj, where Daoud used to live. No visits have been made by the missionaries to these parts. Some of the members attend quite frequently upon the ordinances in Latakia, and several boys and girls are in the boarding schools.

At Jendairia there have been a good many Sabbath meetings held by missionaries and teachers. We are not allowed to have a school, and the members have been enrolled by the Government as Moslems, but against their will. They sometimes attend the services at Latakia.

At Gunaimia the church continues to grow, and the school is prosperous. At

present there is considerable discussion there among the brethren. They require much prayer and care.

At Inkzik the school is flourishing. Many Sabbath meetings have been held. The wife of Rev. Lyde's old servant lately passed away, after months of suffering. She gave good evidence of being prepared to depart. Two of our best young men from there have gone to America.

SUADIA CENTER.

At Suadia the boys' boarding school has been discontinued, and we also had to perform the sad duty of dismissing the pupils and teachers of the girls' school, which Miss Cunningham had lately reopened. An attempt will be made to keep a day school for girls in a private house. A day school for boys is in successful operation. The principal teacher is a young man, lately transferred thither from Latakia, after a successful career in the boys' school.

We shall continue to employ both a man and a woman as Bible readers, unless the man should be needed to assist in teaching. It is impossible to foresee what results may follow the withdrawal of the missionary forces from this center. At present there seems to be no disposition on the part of the members and adherents to forsake the assembling of themselves together.

SCHOOL WORK AT LATAKIA.

At Latakia the regular church services have been maintained. The Sabbath school has had a total enrollment of 214, and an average attendance of 140, and has contributed 424 piasters. (The amount of congregational collections in Latakia was 2211 piasters.) The teachers' meeting has been continued. There is a woman's meeting or society for devotion and another for work, to help secure funds to build a new church.

The girls' boarding school has 54 pupils

and the day school 36. Three female teachers are employed and one male for part of his time.

The same order of exercises and course of study have been followed as before. The first half hour is for devotion, a Bible lesson, repeating the Ten Commandments and Lord's Prayer. The first half hour in the classes is spent in reciting Scripture, including Psalms in meter. The pupils are well drilled in the Catechism and other religious text-books. At the close of each day an hour and a quarter is spent in knitting, sewing and other needle-work. The girls have worked 21 handkerchiefs at odd moments, to be sold for the church erection fund. In the intervals between the public services on the Sabbath, they pass the time in reading and Bible study, and in the evening hold a prayer meeting. They have contributed 64½ piasters. Two girls graduated, and one has since been employed as a teacher. Once a week the mothers come to see their daughters and are entertained by Miss Wylie with a short Bible lesson. She has not had much time for social calls, but has often visited the sick and the sorrowing to extend sympathy and comfort. She remained in Latakia as usual during the summer vacation, made some needed repairs, laid in stores and kept up the Sabbath school.

The boys' school opened Oct. 9, 1905, with 44 boarders, and has had an average of 44 day pupils. The boarders represent 14 different villages; 10 are from villages in which no mission work can be done; 16 are from Bahamra and Jendairia; 14 are from villages where we have primary schools, and 4 are from Latakia; 19 are children of communicants and 9 are communicants; 9 boys pay board and tuition in part; 17 provide their own clothing.

The day pupils are all from Latakia, pay no tuition but mostly pay for their

books. When they are too poor for that they are not turned away.

The attendance has been larger and more regular this winter than at any time since the Russian schools began here. Four male teachers are employed, two of them being new to the work, graduates of last spring. The studies are the same as before. The imparting of Bible truth and of all such instruction as may lead to salvation through Christ, is made always of the first importance.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Mission desires to acknowledge the usual grant of £15 stg. received from the Bible Lands Mission's Aid Society, and also some free publications of the R. T. Society.

JAMES S. STEWART.

REPORT OF MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

In regard to the medical work, there is nothing, aside from the ordinary, to report. Work was begun immediately upon our return to the field, Oct. 15. Clinics have been held regularly three times a week, unless prevented by sickness. During the month of November the attendance was from 80 to 100; more recently the average has been about 40. Religious services have been conducted at all the clinics; 366 visits have been made to patients at their homes during the time covered by this report. The amount received in fees is 1086 piasters; for medicines 2572 piasters; total 3658 piasters.

The hospital was opened Nov. 1; 53 patients have been treated, nearly all of whom have been discharged well or improved. There have been no deaths.

The same number of helpers has been employed as in former years; but the fact that we have been without a matron has rendered it necessary for me to give much more of my time and attention to details than formerly. And, although our employees have given faithful service to the

best of their ability, we have not been able to keep the work up to the previous standard.

The same attention has been given to daily religious instruction, and in addition a special Sabbath evening service is held. The work has brought within the influence of the truth a goodly number who have thus had their first opportunity of hearing the gospel. Several patients who could read have manifested much interest in the Bible and other religious books, and a number of volumes have been given to those who wished them. The Bible has been introduced into a number of Moslem homes, where it was not known before.

The fees from patients amount to 717 piasters.

J. M. BALPH.



Asia Minor.—We are monuments of God's mercy, and make thankful mention of His loving kindness.

ARRIVAL OF REV. C. A. DODDS.

Rev. C. A. Dodds and his family have come to us in this field by the kind appointment of the Board. They arrived here about the first of November, after spending their summer in Kessab. Circumstances prevented their coming here sooner. Though their transfer, and the subsequent death of Miss Cunningham, has left Suadia without a missionary, we believe the transfer was wise and providentially ordered. The field here seems to us to afford so much better opportunities for mission work than Suadia. For them it is not in every respect advantageous, but personal considerations will not weigh much with them, and we hope they will never regret coming to this wide and needy field. It is a great advantage to a missionary to this polyglot district to have had the advantage of a few years in Syria, where Arabic is used

exclusively. It would be economy on the part of the Board if it could be so arranged in every case, as there would have to be so much less time spent in acquiring a use of Arabic.

WORK IN ADANA.

The work in Adana never was more encouraging. At least five young men have given themselves earnestly to learning to read the Bible. Hanna Basmah, our Bible reader, is prudent and zealous, and his wife is a true help-meet to him. He is always busy and always finding opportunities for aggressive evangelistic work. For a time there was a great interest in Bible reading, house-to-house meetings. We were greatly rejoiced at the opportunities these meetings afforded for making people acquainted with the way of salvation. But it was too good to continue. Certain persons reported them to the Catholic priest, and told him that the whole district would quickly become Protestant if these meetings were allowed to continue. He forbade his own people to be present at such gatherings, and persuaded the priests of other sects to do the same. Now the people are getting over their fright, and are beginning again to take an interest in hearing what we have to say. One young woman wished to learn to read with our evangelist's wife. It raised so much opposition that her husband requested her to discontinue her lessons. She hopes that the conditions of the summer time will be more favorable, and purposes to learn to read then. The neighbors all say, "What business has a woman with books?" The religious meetings are of the usual kind. They are for the most part conducted in Arabic, but frequently a part is in Kurdish for the benefit of those who do not know the former language. Though the work in Adana is not all we could wish it to be, yet it is gratifying to know that it has real merit. It is the day

of small things. But surely it will grow. A great many people, no doubt far more even than we know, are being affected by the leaven of our Mission.

WORK IN THE AUBA.

Since about New Year's Day our work in Auba has been suspended on account of the dissimulation of the workers there, occasioned by fear of the people among whom they reside. We are not without hope, however, that it may yet be resumed. We have had two deaths this year in that field, of Saleh, the brother of our former Bible reader, and of Habeeb, his son. The work, while it was carried on, made many acquainted with the truth, and interested some in the reading of the Scriptures, notably a sheikh of great influence.

WORK IN TARSUS.

In Tarsus the work has not been so prosperous for many years; better apparently even than the work of last year, although even then there was a marked improvement. The evangelist, Machail Luttoof, has given his whole time to the proper work of that department, and two excellent people, a young man and a young woman, graduates of the Mersina Boarding School, were employed as teachers. The uncertainty of our arrangements at the beginning of the year prevented the schools from being as large as they would otherwise have been. The entire number of pupils with both teachers was 49. But we were not able to open it until November. Otherwise we believe it would have been much larger. The children also gathered regularly for Sabbath school as well as on week days.

The attendance on evangelistic services was large, twice on Sabbath and twice during the week. At first scarcely any but Kurds attended; but now many Syrians also attend. All those who had risen up against the Mission, rather against an individual missionary, have returned with

full and broken-hearted public expressions of regret for all they had done, and declarations of their love for and confidence in the missionary against whom they had combined. There is no doubt there was much error and some sincerity in their course. Our prayer from the first was that God would glorify Himself in the outcome, and we believe He has done so. There has never been as good a spirit in the Church in Tarsus as now, nor so hopeful an outlook.

Village work has been of the same nature as in other years, except that no native agency was employed.

WORK IN MERSINA.

In Mersina religious exercises have been regularly conducted in the Mission chapel, two sermons on Sabbath and a mid-week prayer meeting; also a Sabbath school, the attendance almost exclusively from the school. We have never been able to make the Sabbath school, in the ordinary acceptation of the term, a very effective agency in this field. Occasional sermons have been preached in English, and we have done all we could in the way of preaching in houses whenever we were invited; by this means many have heard the gospel, whom we could not otherwise have hoped to reach. Dimiyan Hemsherry and his wife Rosa Juban have, as in all previous years, been our best helpers in this line. They, by this means, bring a great blessing to themselves and to their neighborhood.

In Guzne we had our usual opportunities, and good was done by our meetings there.

BOARDING SCHOOLS.

Our schools, especially our boarding schools, have, as formerly, been the nucleus of our work, the most effective means of securing congregations to whom to preach. Their benefits are felt throughout our field, and doubtless beyond it. The

number of boarders is seventy-eight, of whom the boys have a majority of ten. The day scholars number 193, of whom 100 are boys.

R. J. DODDS, *Pres.*

E. M. STERRETT, *Cor. Sec.*



Cyprus.—The past year brought to us several events out of the ordinary routine. After my brother had remained in Larnaca for a few months, it seemed, on careful consideration, to be for the best interests of the work for him to be located in Nicosia, to which place he removed in April, 1905.

REMOVAL OF WORKERS.

Rev. H. Sarkissian, the Armenian pastor who had been employed in Nicosia for some years by the Mission, departed with his family in July of last year for Toronto, Canada, to spend the remaining years of his life with his son. He was a good old man, and did his best for the Master's cause in Nicosia, but since he was over eighty years of age, it was time for him to rest.

About the same time, Mr. Aleco Aegyptiades, who had been a teacher in our school the preceding year, took his departure for the United States, to continue his studies in a college there. As the B. and F. Bible Society had decided to discontinue its grant for the work of colportage in the island, it became necessary to part with one of our colporteurs. Since the Egyptian Agency of the B. and F. B. S. had agreed to take one or both of our colporteurs, Mr. A. Vamvois was transferred to Alexandria, to which place he removed with his family in August. Mr. Vamvois was a man of the strictest integrity and zealous in his work, and it was with sincere regret that we saw him leave the work here.

By these removals we have lost from the island four of our members. Two

more have been disciplined, so that we have to record a decrease of six members.

COMMUNICANTS.

During the year just closed I have conducted five communions—two in Larnaca, two in Famagusta, and one in Nicosia. Four persons were received into membership in Larnaca, three in Famagusta, and two in Nicosia, a total increase of nine members. The net increase was three. Of the two in Nicosia, one is Mr. Peponiades, a man of considerable means, who by his will has bequeathed two-thirds of all his property to the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Cyprus. In addition, he has given a building site and £200 in cash for the erection of a Mission building in Nicosia.

VISIT FROM REV. C. A. DODDS.

In October we were cheered by a visit from Rev. C. A. Dodds and family, who spent a few days with us before entering upon their work in Mersina. This was followed by the meeting of Commission, which ended in a happy and profitable communion season together.

ASSAULT ON CONVERTS.

The event of chief importance, as it appears to us, was the fierce attack made on our brethren in Famagusta on Feb. 8, 1906, by a mob of Greeks of about 2,000 persons, which broke into the Mission room, wrecking utterly its contents, and destroyed the shop of Filippus, one of the brethren there. The Governor has temporarily transferred Mr. Kassilian to Kyrenia, and the other brethren have all been compelled to leave in order to find employment. It appears that the work there, for the present at least, has been utterly destroyed. We are able, however, to go forward with the assurance that our Leader will cause all things to work together for good, to them who love Him.

I administered the Sacrament of Baptism four times—once in Famagusta and

three times in Larnaca—baptizing five children.

WORK IN LARNACA.

The day school in Larnaca is in a more satisfactory condition than formerly, although there is still much to be desired. We have in all nearly sixty pupils, twenty-two Greeks, eighteen Armenians, fourteen Turks and three Jews. We have taken in £5 1s. 6d. from sale of school books, and £1 5s. 0d. for tuition, which represents the amount paid for March only, as up to that time we had not collected tuition. After the departure of Mr. Vanvois, the family of Mr. Zacharaki was transferred to Larnaca, while he himself spent about one-half his time in traveling about the island, selling books and preaching the gospel as opportunity offered. The following summary will indicate his mode of working. In the last seven months, he visited 69 villages and towns, traveled 800 miles, conversed with and preached to a total of 1,948 persons, sold 297 Bibles, Testaments, Portions, and a few other religious books, for the sum of £6 4s. 6d.; his traveling expenses during that period amounted to £12 13s. 6d. The usual Sabbath and mid-week services have been conducted with unflinching regularity in Larnaca, Nicosia and Famagusta. The Sabbath collections in Larnaca for the year amounted to £2 14s. 6d. The week of prayer was observed in each center, and much interest was manifested.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We would take this opportunity to thank our many friends for the deep interest they have manifested in the work here in Cyprus, and for the place that this work holds in their prayers and hearts. We acknowledge with gratitude the following special contributions that have been made for the work here:

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McBurney . . . \$50.00
 L. M. S., Rehoboth Congregation . . . 2.00

Mercer Congregation \$2.29
 First Chicago 100.00
 S. S. Eighth St., Pittsburg Cong. . . 5.64
 S. S. New Castle Cong. 25.00
 L. M. S., Iowa Presbytery 172.00
 L. M. S., College Hill Cong. (to be used under direction of Mr. McCarroll) 25.00
 L. M. S., Miller's Run Cong. 50.00
 "Cash," per James Tibby 100.00
 Y. P. S. C. E., Evans Cong. 12.00
 David Simpson, Eighth St. 1.00
 C. E. S., New Castle Cong. 20.00
 Miss Sarah M. Stevenson, Zanesville 1.00
 Lake Reno Cong. 68.00

SLOW, BUT ENCOURAGING, PROGRESS.

The past year, while it has been one of apparently slow progress in the increase of membership, has not been without its phases of distinct encouragement. We rejoice in the evidences of answered prayer, which we received as the promise of better things in the future. Though the opposition of the enemy has been vigorous and vigilant, yet we are sustained by the fact that the battle is not ours but God's, and that the Captain of our salvation will lead us on to triumphant victory in the end.

NOTE OF SYMPATHY.

We sympathize deeply with our fellow missionaries, and the Church at home in the loss that the Mission cause in Syria has sustained by the death of Miss Cunningham. The Lord of the Harvest, however, knows best, and He makes no mistakes. His will be done.

W. MCCARROLL.

REPORT OF MEDICAL WORK.

After having decided that better work could be done and that there was more need for us in Nicosia, we moved our possessions to the capital of the island in April, 1905, and had scarcely got settled and ready to begin work, when I was laid aside for a time because of typhoid

fever. Shortly after, on account of the intense heat and the frailty of our bodies, we were compelled to "lift our eyes to the hills," where we spent a profitable month, and returned much stronger for the work we left before it was begun.

CLINICS AND VISITS.

On Sept. 25, 1905, we began work with free clinics, every Tuesday and Friday, for the poor, and with Mr. Aegyptiades as interpreter and teacher. The attendance rapidly increased from five on the first day till we had seventy-seven, which is the record for one day. And in the six months, to April 1, 1906, we have had a total of 3,450 treatments. We have held 53 clinics, with an average of about 45. Mr. Aegyptiades usually addresses them before beginning work, and also talks to them individually in the office, while I am preparing the medicine. Then we give tracts in Greek to those who are able to read, the number of whom is very limited, owing to the class of people who come. I have made forty visits to patients in their homes, and three trips to Kyrenia, where I was called to see the boy of one of our members, whom I aspired, as he was suffering from empyema. He made an uneventful recovery. The district medical officer for Kyrenia is an Arab, a Presbyterian from Beirut, and the nurses are Miss Dray (sister of Dr. A. Dray) and Miss Athill, both of them sincere and devoted Christians.

The diseases of the people here are largely the same as in America, with a great deal of malaria, eye trouble and constitutional diseases, due to their own sins, which gives opportunity to speak to them of their sins. One fault common to all here is falsehood, so that they have to be reminded of Ananias and Saphira, who perished for telling only one falsehood. However, it is nothing to them, as the sign of the cross frees them from guilt.

ENGLISH RESIDENTS FRIENDLY, BUT NOT IN SYMPATHY WITH MISSION.

Perhaps it will be of interest to you to know that the Government has excellent English physicians in Nicosia, Larnaca and Limassol, with good hospitals, and in Nicosia two English nurses. Also that it has placed in the hands of every district medical officer the best £20 microscope. From these facts you may draw your own conclusions. While as to the fact that we are under English rule, it does not appear from things that occur to be a protection to our work. Personally, the English are our friends, but they are not in sympathy with our work, and frankly tell us that we should go where we are needed; that the Greeks are Christians, and so they make the burden so much harder to bear, as the Greeks follow their teaching and example much more readily than our own.

RESULTS.

As to results, financially, receipts amount to £17 14s., while expenses for registering, furnishing drugs (including stock on hand), exceeds receipts by £1.

Spiritually, it is impossible to measure results. Of this we are sure, it has not yet added any members to the Mission, but apparently the work has had an influence for good in the community, as this city, which formerly was so hostile, was probably the most quiet during the recent disturbances. And as we look back on the little that we have accomplished, we feel that we should "humble ourselves before God" and exclaim, "We are unprofitable servants." However, it is not all discouragement, as we are now planning to have a school in connection with the work in Nicosia, and we hope, by God's grace, to have a more favorable report at the end of next year.

C. MCCARROLL.



READ EVERY WORD OF THESE REPORTS.

A LETTER FROM CHINA.

Tak Hing Chau, May 7, 1906.

Dear Dr. Sommerville:

Our spring communion is just over. The meetings were not very well attended, except by members, due, no doubt, to the heavy rains and bad roads. On Saturday baptism was administered to four people, two of them very old people, from the country, and two girls from the school. Only three of the Chung people got here this time. It is a long, hard trip across the mountains, and the older people could not come. But the ones who came brought us the glad news that at last the old grandmother had thrown away her idols and said she believed in the "Jesus doctrine." There was great rejoicing among her relatives here when they heard it.

We have had cloudy weather and much rain constantly since the first of the year. There has not been one week of sunshine in that time. The river is very high and the water has been backed up from the river until we have had several feet in our compound. It has not been as high as

it was four years ago, but the natives say they have never had a rise so early in the year as this, and that it will surely be much higher before the rainy season is over. This is the longest wet spell we have had since coming to China, and it is more trying than the hot weather. There is much sickness and death all around us. The plague still continues, and every few days we hear of a death from it. Many of the native houses have had water in them for some time, and are unfit to live in, and as a result much sickness occurs. We had word from one of the missionaries at Lo Ting that many of the houses there, built of mud brick, were falling down.

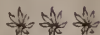
The brick work on the new hospital is almost finished, but there is much more to do on the building before it is ready for use.

The work at Do Sing is not making much progress, owing principally to the wet weather and high water.

The members of the Mission at Tak Hing are all well.

Very sincerely yours,

MAUDE L. ROBB.



THE FIELD REPORT FROM CHINA WILL APPEAR IN THE JULY NUMBER, WHICH WILL BE ISSUED IN A FEW DAYS.



A poor, lame, half-witted creature was obliged to stand in a close, hot room twelve hours a day, stitching harness. He had heard from some preacher that every-day work could be ennobled, but he had only a dim idea of the man's meaning. One day he looked out of his window and saw a horse dashing madly by with a carriage containing a woman and a child. A man leaped from the curb, caught the horse by the bridle, and was dragged along by the infuriated animal. But the bridle held, the horse was stopped, the mother and child were saved. The thought passed through the mind of the poor leather stitcher: "Suppose the sewing of that bridle had been poorly done, with bad thread. Then the bridle might have broken, and the man, as well as those in the carriage, would have been injured. How do I know but that sewing was some of my work?" Animated by that grand thought, he stitched away like a hero, determined to do his humble work well for the sake of others. From that time on, he ennobled his calling, as every one may do, who has the spirit of the Master, whose life has made ours worth living.—*Exchange*.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Synod of 1906 is over. The readers of *OLIVE TREES* will be glad to have the sermon of the retiring Moderator, Dr. W. J. Coleman, on "Great Success in Seeming Failure." It was a singularly appropriate discourse, and must have brought new strength to many who are too much inclined to faint under discouraging circumstances.

The new Moderator, Rev. J. R. Wylie, was a very courteous presiding officer. Under his tactful leadership, the proceedings of the court were distinguished by the rapid transaction of business and unanimity of action. There was manifested most brotherly feeling in the discussion of subjects on which there was naturally a difference of opinion. At no previous meeting was there a more marked determination to sustain the missions of the Church, already in operation, and to extend the work both at home and abroad. This is clearly indicated in the recommendations of the Committee on Foreign Missions, and in the financial appropriations.



Young men and women are needed for our foreign mission fields. The work is arduous, but at the present time it is most encouraging. The opposition will always be great when the truth is preached; but the laborers are not asked to go forth in their own strength, but in reliance upon the promised power of the Holy Spirit. The gospel that they are to preach is the power of God to the salvation of every one who accepts the message. The need unites with existing opportunities for successful service in urging attention to this call for help. Two ordained ministers and three missionary teachers are required at once. During the discussion on Saturday

morning, Rev. J. Boggs Dodds, of Sterling, Kans., who spent years in Northern Syria, and understands the situation in Suadia, made a most earnest and effective appeal to Synod not to let slip the present opportunity of bringing that field under the influence of Christian truth.



At Synod the Corresponding Secretary of the Board received from Mr. J. A. Torrence, of Denison, Kans., a bequest of Miss Jennie B. Torrence, late of Tak Hing Chau, to the Mission in China, amounting to \$231.28, which has been passed on to Treasurer Walter T. Miller. He also received three valuable rings, which Miss Torrence had entrusted to him to be disposed of for the benefit of that Mission. These rings are now offered to members of the Covenant Church, who may wish to purchase them for sake of the association. One is a heavy gold band with initials; the second a gold ring set with five garnets, and the third is a diamond ring. As this jewelry is to be sold for the benefit of the Mission in China and was devoted to this purpose by a consecrated missionary who has ceased from her labors, it is hoped that intending purchasers will be ready to give more for them than their intrinsic value. The writer wishes to raise on this farewell gift as large a sum as possible for the Mission. Full information as to the value and selling price will be furnished on application to

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Treasurer Walter T. Miller requests us to acknowledge receipt of \$5,153.00 from Mr. Henry Martin, of Philadelphia, Pa., for the mission in China, a memorial of the late Mrs. Isabella Martin.

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